IN THE CLAIMS:

1-59.   (cancelled)

60.   (previously presented) A method of operating a wireless transmitter to wirelessly transmit a data packet on a variable rate channel to a receiver, the method comprising:

5   coding a plurality of data bits of the data packet to produce a plurality of parity bits, wherein the plurality of data bits and the plurality of parity bits comprise an encoder packet;

forming a first sub packet from the encoder packet as a first transmission, the first sub packet including the data bits and a first set of the parity bits, and the first sub packet having a first coding rate;

10   transmitting the first transmission to the receiver at a first bit rate;

receiving an indication from the receiver that the first transmission was not successfully decoded; and

forming a second sub packet from the encoder packet as a second transmission, the second sub packet having a second set of parity bits that are different than the first set of parity bits, and the

15   second sub packet having a second coding rate;

transmitting the second transmission to the receiver at a second bit rate that differs from the first bit rate;

receiving an indication from the receiver that the first transmission and the second transmission were not successfully decoded;

20   forming a third sub packet from the encoder packet as a third transmission, the third sub packet having a third set of parity bits that are different than the first set of parity bits and the second set of parity bits, and the third sub packet having a third coding rate; and

transmitting the third transmission to the receiver at a third bit rate that differs from at least the first bit rate.

25

61.   (previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising:

receiving an indication from the receiver that the first transmission, the second transmission, and the third transmission were not successfully decoded;

forming a fourth sub packet from the encoder packet as a fourth transmission, the fourth sub

30   packet having a fourth set of parity bits that are different than the first set of parity bits, the second

2

set of parity bits, and the third set of parity bits, and the fourth sub packet having a fourth coding rate; and

transmitting the fourth transmission to the receiver at a fourth bit rate that differs from at least the first bit rate.

5

62.   (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the first coding rate, the second coding rate, and the third coding rate are the same coding rate.

63.   (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the second coding rate
10   and the third coding rate are less than the first coding rate.

64.   (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the second bit rate and the third bit rate are less than the first bit rate.

15   65.   (previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising:
the receiver soft combining the first transmission with the second transmission and attempting to decode a combined result;

the receiver soft combining the first transmission, the second transmission, and the third transmission and attempting to decode a combined result.

3

66.   (previously presented) A method of operating a wireless transmitter to wirelessly transmit a data packet on a variable rate channel to a receiver, the method comprising:

coding a plurality of data bits of the data packet to produce a plurality of parity bits, wherein the plurality of data bits and the plurality of parity bits comprise an encoder packet;

5   forming a first sub packet from the encoder packet as a first transmission, the first sub packet including the plurality of data bits and a first set of the parity bits and having a first coding rate;

transmitting the first transmission to the receiver at a first bit rate;

receiving an indication from the receiver that the first transmission was not successfully

10   decoded; and

forming a second sub packet from the encoder packet as a second transmission, the second sub packet including at least some of the plurality of data bits and a second set of parity bits that are different than the first set of parity bits, the second transmission having a second coding rate;

transmitting the second transmission to the receiver at a second bit rate that is less than the

15   first bit rate;

receiving an indication from the receiver that the first transmission and the second transmission were not successfully decoded;

forming a third sub packet from the encoder packet as a third transmission, the third sub packet including at least some of the plurality of data bits and a third set of parity bits that are

20   different than the first set of parity bits and the second set of parity bits, the third transmission having a third coding rate;

transmitting the third transmission to the receiver at a third bit rate that is less than the first bit rate.

receiving an indication from the receiver that the first transmission, the second transmission,

25   and the third transmission were not successfully decoded;

forming a fourth sub packet from the encoder packet as a fourth transmission, the fourth sub packet including at least some of the plurality of data bits and a fourth set of parity bits that are different than the first set of parity bits, the second set of parity bits, and the third set of parity bits, the fourth sub packet having a fourth coding rate; and

30   transmitting the fourth transmission to the receiver at a fourth bit rate that is less than the first bit rate.

4

67.   (previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the first coding rate, the second coding rate, the third coding rate, and the fourth coding rate are the same coding rate.

68.   (previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the second coding rate, the third coding rate, and the fourth coding rate are less than the first coding rate.

69.   (previously presented) The method of claim 66, further comprising:

the receiver soft combining the first transmission with the second transmission and attempting to decode a combined result;

the receiver soft combining the first transmission, the second transmission, and the third transmission and attempting to decode a combined result.

5